

1 8. (As filed) A method as in claim 5, wherein the connector has a through
2 hole such that fluids passing through the traveling valve move through the through hole and
3 upwardly through the plunger.

1 9. (New) A pumping system comprising:
2 a pump barrel that is adapted to be placed into a well casing;
3 a plunger reciprocatably positioned within the pump barrel, wherein the plunger
4 has an open top end that is configured to direct particulate away from the pump barrel, a
5 bottom end, and a traveling valve at the bottom end, wherein the plunger has a tight fit with the
6 pump barrel to prevent particulate from accumulating between the plunger and the pump
7 barrel;
8 a connector coupled to the plunger below the top end; and
9 a rod coupled to the connector, wherein the rod is translatable to reciprocate the
10 plunger within the pump barrel using an upstroke and a downstroke.

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 5 have been amended. Claims 9 has been added. Examination of the claims, as amended, is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 303-571-4000.

Respectfully submitted,

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